



Resolution # HSRA 12-19

**Certification of the Merced to Fresno Section
Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS)
for Compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)**

WHEREAS, pursuant to the California High-Speed Rail Act, Public Utilities Code section 185000, et seq., the California High-Speed Rail Authority ("Authority") was created in 1996 to direct the development and implementation of intercity high-speed rail service that is fully integrated with the state's existing intercity rail and bus network.

WHEREAS, the Authority has chosen to use a tiered environmental review and decision making process to identify preferred alignments and station locations for the high-speed train system;

WHEREAS, the Authority and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) completed a first-tier, program EIR/EIS for the statewide high-speed train (HST) system in 2005 and approved general alignments and station locations for further study in second-tier, project-level environmental documents, but directed staff to prepare a separate first-tier, program EIR/EIS for the Bay Area to Central Valley route;

WHEREAS, the Authority and FRA completed a first-tier, Bay Area to Central Valley HST Final Program EIR/EIS in 2008, and the Authority completed a Partially Revised Final Program EIR in 2012;

WHEREAS, the Authority has now completed a second-tier Merced to Fresno Section Final Project EIR/EIS;

WHEREAS, prior to taking action, the Authority has reviewed and considered among other items:

- (1) the Merced to Fresno Section Final Project EIR/EIS, including the entire body of public comment submitted to the Authority as reflected in Volume 4;
- (2) the CEQA Addendum to the Merced to Fresno Section Final Project EIR/EIS;
- (3) the Errata to the Merced to Fresno Section Final Project EIR/EIS; and
- (4) the entire record before the Authority.

WHEREAS, all legal prerequisites to the adoption of this Resolution have been fulfilled;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED by the California High-Speed Authority as follows:

The Authority hereby certifies that:

- (a) the Merced to Fresno Section Final Project EIR/EIS has been completed in compliance with CEQA;
- (b) the Merced to Fresno Section Final Project EIR/EIS has been presented to the Authority Board and the Board has reviewed and considered the information contained in the Merced to Fresno Section Final Project EIR/EIS; and
- (c) the Merced to Fresno Section Final Project EIR/EIS reflects the Authority's independent judgment and analysis.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned Chief Executive Officer, or his designee, of the California High-Speed Rail Authority does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the California High-Speed Rail Authority held on May 3, 2012.

Dated:

Thomas Fellenz
Acting Chief Executive Officer

Vote:

Date:

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